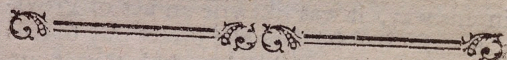


stratagems; so the young man, or divine messenger, suddenly disappeared, yet leaving his fellow traveller in good hands.

MORAL.

Respecting the dispensations of God's Providence, we may rest assured, however they may appear dark and intricate to us, they always are and must be right.



ON THE
GOVERNMENT of the PASSIONS.
A MORAL ESSAY.

Nosce teipsum.

THE wise and gracious Author of Nature has indulgently furnished the human species with passions, intended to be inexhaustible sources of pleasures through this mortal life; and when they prove otherwise, our own imprudence most commonly, (and not the laws of Nature) must be to blame—"Whatever is, is right," is in general true, if we restrict it to the primary intentions

tions of the God of Nature*: and whenever any thing happens which is wrong, we may rest assured that it happens by the perversion of natural laws, and the depravity of the human heart. Even divine judgments, though not to be traced by us to their original cause, and though they sometimes apparently bear the marks of cruelty and injustice;—yet, could we plainly discover their necessity and intention, we should find them reducible to this one principle.

Were it possible to train up a child from his infancy, in the paths of simple nature;—to let him enjoy with moderation whatever his passions might require, and not only to deny him, but even to keep him unacquainted with every immoderate gratification, there is not the least doubt but he would be happy, because Nature intends that all her votaries should be so.—I mean this only of the *sensual* passions; the passions of the mind being of a more refined and pure nature, and more difficult to be kept under proper government.—Yet even these, in a great measure, depend on the sensual passions: and, therefore, when one species is uniformly kept under proper regulations, the other will be so too.

* Men may do wrong, but the all-wise Creator cannot err, what he appoints or permits to come to pass is always for wise and good ends.

Whatever